(c) what are the names of the products on which the Central Government have increased the rate of royalty on the basis of the above demands and what is the extent of increase allowed in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) For the purpose of revision in the rates of royalty on major minerals, the Central Government constituted a Study Group in November, 1984, which had issued a Questionnaire calling for the suggestions of all State Governments in this regard. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted their suggestions on 14-6-85 for increase in royalty rates on minerals including bauxite, iron ore, copper ore and diamond. Government of M.P. have suggested rates of royalty on bauxite at the rate of Rs. 20 per tonne, on diamond at the rate of 25 per cent of sale price at pit's head, on copper at the rate of Rs. 8 per tonne. The State Government had also proposed the same rate of royalty on copper in November, 1982. On iron ore, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh proposed in September, 1982 rates ranging from Re. 1.00 to Rs. 6.00 per tonne when used for export and from Rs. 4.00 to Rs. 25.00, when used for indigenous industry, depending upon the content of iron in the Mineral. No rate has been proposed by the State Government for iron ore in their letter dated 14-6-85. The suggestions made by the State Government were taken into consideration by the Study Group.

The Study Group has submitted its report in December, 1985 and the recommendations of the Study Group are under the active consideration of the Government.

**News Service System of Doordarshan**

*152. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring about some changes in the news service system of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

The requirements of Doordarshan and other media are different, and therefore, there is need for having a separate news set-up in Doordarshan. Similarly, there is need for higher professionalism at an increasing scale to improve the news presentation. The Government also recognises the need for training to the news personnel. The Ministry is working out the details of these three and it is proposed to complete this exercise very soon and to introduce this as a pilot system in National News later on and extend it to other Kendras from where news telecast takes place.

2. Steps that already have been taken to improve the news services system of Doordarshan are summarised below:—

(i) Strict adherence to the guidelines relating to news policy for broadcast media is being insisted upon to ensure greater objectivity and professional quality.

(ii) It has been decided to provide adequate number of dedicated mobile Units for news collection at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta as well as some other news producing Kendras.

(iii) With a view to improving the extent of visual coverage of

events noticed in the news bulletins, electronic news gathering (ENG) equipment has been provided to all Doordarshan Kendras so that local events could be covered effectively and adequately.

(iv) In order to supplement the in-house facilities, for covering of visual news, Doordarshan has entered into contracts with private TV news agencies like Press Trust of India, M/s. Independent Television Co., New Delhi; M/s. T.V. Programme Producers Guild of India, Madras and M/s. T.V. News India, New Delhi for supplying visual feeds of high news value events. In addition, each Doordarshan Kendra engages freelance stringers for coverage of newsworthy events.

(v) The rates of payment to stringers for news coverages have been enhanced considerably.

(vi) Doordarshan has entered into contracts with M/s. Visnews London and M/s. Asia Vision (ABU) for obtaining visual coverages of international events.

(vii) In order to accommodate a greater variety of news, particularly developmental news, the dura- has been increased to 30 minutes on has been inceased to 30 minutes on Saturdays (for Hindi bulletin) and Sunday (for English bulletin).

(viii) A month-long training programmes with news experts from abroad and a two-day workshop with Indian editors and journalists have been arranged to acquaint Doordarshan's news personnel with the latest concepts and techniques for presentation of news bulletins. More workshops and training programmes are being planned.

(ix) Use of special effects equipment is being encouraged in order to produce greater visual appeal. Studio II of Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi, which was previously using the Colour OB Van for production of programmes, has now been fitted with professional grade colour equipment. This studio is porposed to be used for production and telecast of the national News Bulletins. Steps are being taken to induct more modern equipment specially studied for quality presentation of news bulletins.

(x) Audience Service by Doordarshan's own Audience Research Unit as well as outside professional agencies are planned in respect of news bulletins with a view to bringing about appropriate improvements.

**Recommendation of Meria Advisory Committee**

*153. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines issued to the All India Radio and Doordarshan regarding the news policy on the basis of recommendations of the Media Advisory Committee;

(b) what recommendations of the Media Advisory Committee regarding the Publication's Division of the Ministry have been accepted; and

(c) what recommendations of the Committee regarding introduction of colour TV have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) to (c) A statement indicating the position in respect of each point of the question laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Appendix CXXXVIII, Annexure II 19, 20 and 21].